

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus Delivers Remarks during the World Energy Innovation Forum

By DON Innovation

FREEMONT, CA – Joining an elite group in the energy innovation sector, the Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, spoke at the 4 May 2016 World Energy Innovation Forum (WEIF) regarding energy innovation and its impact on the Department of the Navy (DON) future. While those in the private sector may think topics like new energy and innovation are often not considered paramount within military agendas, Mr. Mabus asked the audience to challenge that perception.

Illuminating the impact of his Task Force Innovation (TFI), Mr. Mabus showed that his series of initiatives intended to attract and retain innovative thinkers who could look at energy issues differently. In his module, “Addressing the Future of Naval Innovation,” one of the six key attributes requires a steady pressure on remaining a cutting-edge organization that can harnesses new energy technology. With examples from as far back as the transitions from sail-to-steam, steam-to-coal, nuclear propulsion and, ultimately, unmanned vehicles, Mr. Mabus showed how the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have always led the way in how we acquire and use our energy.



As the demand for energy is expected to rise dramatically over the next 15-20 years, being overly reliant on outside energy sources is an economic and security risk, and our maritime forces cannot afford to be hindered by that lack of stability. The goals Mr. Mabus set in motion with TFI asks the DON’s innovative thinkers to consider bio-based energy sources as a significant part of ensuring our tenure as “the most formidable expeditionary force the world has ever known.”

“Optimizing our energy use is a force multiplier, increasing our capabilities, our impact and our endurance across platforms and disciplines. Factoring energy use into our planning and execution gives us a combat advantage, enabling us to gain the most effect from every gallon of fuel or watt of electricity,” says Mr. Mabus. Continuing to work through pivotal energy issues as TFI comes to a close remains at the forefront of the DON’s agenda.